

**WAIVER FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (SIG)  
TO EXTEND THE AVAILABILITY OF FY 2009 FUNDS FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR**

Nebraska will be requesting approval of an amendment to its Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grants application to extend the waiver previously granted under Section 421 (b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. §1225 (b), to extend the period of availability of the FY 2009 SIG funds awarded under Section 1003 (g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, until September 30, 2014. This request to extend the waiver, submitted pursuant to section 9401 (d)(2) of the ESEA, would permit Nebraska to identify and allow local educational agencies (LEAs) with Cohort 1 SIG schools additional time to expend remaining FY 2009 funds in those schools.

This amendment, if approved, would apply to an LEA with one or more Tier I or II SIG schools that began fully implementing a SIG intervention model at the start of the 2010-11 school year (Cohort 1). Any LEA that is interested in implementing the extended waiver would need to request and receive NDE's (Nebraska Department of Education's) permission to implement it.

Nebraska will assure that:

- it will approve an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver only if the LEA has effectively used FY 2009 funds to carry out the SIG final requirements and improve student achievement, in accordance with section 9401 (d)(2)(A) of the ESEA.
- It will develop criteria that will enable it to determine whether an LEA can continue to fully and effectively implement one of the models in its Tier I or II Cohort 1 schools for an additional year.
- Prior to approving an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver, Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will apply criteria to ensure that the LEA will use the funds to fully and effectively implement a SIG intervention model in one or more Tier I or Tier II Cohort 1 SIG schools for an additional school year, including by reviewing and approving revised LEA budgets and plans for continuing full and effective implementation of the model during the 2013-14 school year.
- NDE will develop a technical assistance and support plan that outlines how it will continue to support LEAs' implementation of the intervention models for selected Cohort 1 schools that are approved to implement the extended waiver.
- It will develop a monitoring plan for the 2013-14 school year, specifically for the LEAs that are approved to implement the extended waiver.
- Within 30 days of NDE approving LEA requests to implement the extended waiver, it will post in its public web site and submit to USDE (United States Department of Education) the names of the LEAs it has approved to implement the extended waiver, the schools within those LEAs that will benefit from the extension of the period of availability of the funds, and, for each LEA and school, the amount of funds that will be extended.

Any Cohort 1 LEA with Tier I or Tier II schools choosing to extend the funding into the 2013-14 school year will *not* be allowed to apply for new SIG funding for that school until applications are available for the 2015-16 school year (Cohort 6).

Grant Award Notifications (GANs) will be extended to August 31, 2014 for LEAs receiving a waiver to lengthen the period of availability of FY 2009 SIG funds. All funds would need to be expended by that time.

Nebraska believes that the additional time is in the public interest and will enable qualifying LEAs to ensure that their Cohort 1 schools are able to use remaining FY 2009 SIG funds to support continued full and effective implementation of selected SIG intervention models for one additional year.

**Comments are encouraged and should be submitted via email to [diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov](mailto:diane.stuehmer@nebraska.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2013.**